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## THE BUZZ: BUSINESS NEWS

### Beech-Nut completes sale of former Canajoharie plant

By [Eric Anderson](#) on December 9, 2013 at 12:56 PM

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Beech-Nut said Monday morning it has completed the sale of its former manufacturing plant in downtown Canajoharie. The purchaser was described only as a "private investor," and terms of the sale weren't revealed.

The deal closed on Friday.

Kenneth Rose, who heads the Montgomery County Economic Development Corp., said his office has been working with Beech-Nut and the private developer. He said more details on plans for the site likely would be revealed after Christmas.

Asked about whether the new owner would create jobs, Rose said construction jobs would be created as the building is modified and some of its sections demolished.

The 24.5-acre site at 68 Church St. is adjacent to the Canajoharie Thruway exit along the Mohawk River and has an estimated market value of \$9.4 million. The



Beech-Nut's Canajoharie plant

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Beech-Nut has sought to sell the building since it moved into a new \$125 million facility 22 miles away in the Town of Florida Business Park in June 2010. It ended production in Canajoharie in March 2011, where it had been for 116 years.

State and local officials, hoping to prevent the company from leaving New York state entirely, offered \$100 million in state and local incentives to help it move to the Town of Florida.

The plant committed to create up to 135 new positions — at that point it employed 350 — after it moved to its new facility. But plummeting birth rate weakened demand for its baby food products, and it wasn't able to reach its goal of 373 workers to preserve property tax breaks. It has had to pay about \$1 million so far in additional taxes, as employment fell to 341 workers.

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Boutelle said the company hopes to focus on growth.

"With the completion of the sale of the Canajoharie site we can now focus all of our attention on growing our business at our new state of the art facility in the town of Florida," he said in a release announcing the sale. "We believe that Beech-Nut Nutrition is poised for growth now and in the future and we look forward to continuing to be a good neighbor in Montgomery County and upstate New York."

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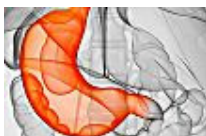
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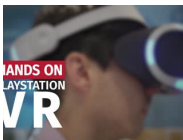
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